

## Students rally to try to save Chino Valley adult school

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CHINO - Scores of supporters rallied Thursday to protest the school board's elimination of \$1million in funding for the Chino Valley Adult School.

But the school may not be going away entirely.

Chino Valley Unified officials learned earlier in the week that the school is eligible to receive an annual \$416,000 federal grant for each of the next two years.

The district's school board in February cut \$1million from its annual budget for the next two years, which effectively ended the adult school's operations. The school had been working with an annual budget of \$1.2million.

Aref Fakhoury, interim warden of the California Institution for Men in Chino, spoke in favor of the program at Thursday's school board meeting. Fakhoury graduated from the school in 1974 after immigrating from Jordan.

"For people who came to this country, this school gave them the opportunity they needed to blend into the community to be successful and

gave them the chance for a better life," Fakhoury said.

Prior to the board meeting, more than a dozen current and former adult students stood in front of the district office on Riverside Drive and carried a 30-foot-long banner that read, "Educating Everyone Takes Everyone." They later held up the banner throughout the board meeting.

Many of the current adult school students expressed concern about not being able to finish their high school diplomas and GED requirements. Some students said they would not be able to acquire their citizenship and learn English.

The students included immigrants from Latin America, Asia and the Middle East.

In the past week, Chino Valley Unified officials discovered the district is eligible to receive an annual \$416,000 federal grant for the next two years for its adult school operations, adult school Principal Rick Landorf said.

Landorf has also requested additional district funds that could potentially keep part of the adult school's operations available in the next school year.

"I would also like to have enough to make a GED program work and adult high school concurrent student program work as well as an ESL (English as a Second Language) program, so I would use

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the grant money for that and the \$200,000 they left me, but I need a little bit more," Landorf said.

Landorf said a presentation on the grant and the need for additional money will be made at the next board meeting. The exact amount of money that will be requested was still being worked out. Landorf said he would have a "better handle" on the amount next week.

Also on Thursday, the school board voted 4 to 1 to release about 87 preliminary employee layoff notices ahead of a March 15 notification deadline.

Board member James Na cast the lone dissenting vote.

Adult school teachers laid off were 12 ESL teachers, three GED teachers, two adult school counselors, a conversation teacher, citizenship teacher and a senior chorus teacher.

Landorf said some of the layoffs could be rescinded with the additional funds.

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